



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 905

LCO No. 2966

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING AN ATTORNEY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 51-81d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The Superior Court, in accordance with rules established by the
4 judges of the Superior Court, may (1) establish a Client Security Fund
5 to (A) reimburse claims for losses caused by the dishonest conduct of
6 attorneys admitted to the practice of law in this state and incurred in
7 the course of an attorney-client relationship, and (B) provide crisis
8 intervention and referral assistance to attorneys admitted to the
9 practice of law in this state who have mental health, alcohol, substance
10 abuse or gambling problems, and (2) assess any person admitted as an
11 attorney by the Superior Court, in accordance with section 51-80, an
12 annual fee to be deposited in said Client Security Fund. Not more than
13 fifty per cent of any increase in such annual fee that takes effect after
14 the effective date of this section shall be used to provide crisis
15 intervention and referral assistance pursuant to subparagraph (B) of
16 subdivision (1) of this subsection. The specific percentage or dollar
17 amount of such increase to be used for crisis intervention and referral

18 assistance pursuant to subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this
 19 subsection shall be determined from time to time by the judges of the
 20 Superior Court.

21 (b) The Commissioner of Revenue Services, or the commissioner's
 22 designee, shall collect any fee established pursuant to subsection (a) of
 23 this section, record such payments with the State Comptroller and
 24 deposit such payments promptly with the State Treasurer, who shall
 25 credit such payments to the Client Security Fund. The Treasurer shall
 26 maintain the Client Security Fund separate and apart from all other
 27 moneys, funds and accounts and shall credit any interest earned from
 28 the Client Security Fund to the fund. Any interest earned from the
 29 fund [during the period from its inception to May 26, 2000, shall be
 30 retroactively] shall be credited to the fund.

31 (c) The Client Security Fund shall be used [only] to satisfy the claims
 32 and provide crisis intervention and referral assistance approved in
 33 accordance with procedures established pursuant to rules of the
 34 Superior Court and to pay the reasonable costs of administration of the
 35 fund.

36 (d) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall notify the Chief
 37 Court Administrator or his designee of the failure of any person to pay
 38 any fee assessed in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To allow the judicial branch to use a portion of any increase in the fee collected for the Client Security Fund to subsidize an attorney assistance program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]